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FILE ONLY

CU rejects demand to cancel CIA visit

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BOULDER — A Nov. 18 Central Intelligence Agency recruiting visit to the University of Colorado campus will go on as planned.

College President Gordon Gee rejected a proposal Friday that he cancel the CIA visit and form an ethics panel to probe CIA "crimes."

"The university takes very seriously its obligation to provide an environment for free and responsible expression," Gee said in a written statement. "It will not limit the legal and democratic access to the grounds of the university."

A group of CU students, faculty and Boulder residents vowed Oct. 7 to stage nonviolent protests more "massive" and intense than last spring if CU administrators rejected their request.

Last spring, 478 arrests were made in nonviolent protests against the spy agency.

The group, called Community in Action, argues that the CIA is filled with "proven murderers and rapists."

"I'm disappointed," group organizer Kevin Harris said Friday of Gee's decision. "What we asked for was free and open discussion."

Currently, a small group of administrators determine what groups can use university facilities, Harris said. The proposed nine-member ethics panel, which would be empowered to screen all recruiters, would "distribute the power" more fairly, he added.

Gee couldn't be reached for comment Friday, but Vice Chancellor for Academic Services Kay Howe said that the administration "won't turn over the open-



CU President Gee won't restrict access.

ness of the campus to nine people. We simply do not agree that there should be a list of approved recruiters."

Harris stressed that he hadn't received notice of Gee's decision Friday. But he said, "If the (administration) has rejected our request for a panel, we will escalate our protests" in November.

He said the group hasn't decided how protests will be escalated.